1: Grigson G-5 (1927-1934) 1949
AW32 Gond AW32

133 For the rest of its course from Chitrakot to its junction with the Godavari near Bhadrakali in Bhopalpatnam zamindari on the western border it is typical of any great river draining mountainous country. It loses its rusty colour at Chitrakot, and becomes a series of rapids and deep pools, giving way to fresh rapids wherever it passes over sheets of rock or pierces through successive mountain barriers in wild gorges. The pools are often great land-locked lakes, with deeply wooded islands, the haunts of tiger, sambar and wild buffalo. It receives various tributaries, of which the chief Bastar rivers are the Gudra, the Nei Bherat[1] and the Kotri on the north bank, and on the south bank the Dantewara, the Berudi and the Bhopalpatnam Chintawag. The Gudra and the Nei Bherat take most of the drainage of the wild tangle of the Abujhmar hills, save for smaller mountain torrents, such as the Goinder that descends from Hikul over the magnificent Handawada falls (not marked on the maps), and the Komra that for much of its length forms the Bastar-Central Provinces (Chanda) boundary. The Gudra drains the Tulagotal, Farsigotal, Farsal, Bardal and Chudala (Chhota) Dongar *parganas* of the Abujhmar mountains and other adjacent *parganas* of the Antagarh tahsil; the gorge near Chhota Dongar where it leaves the Abujhmar mountains in a narrow loch between forested peaks, its banks deep in bamboo, *Osmunda regalis* and other ferns, is beautiful. The Nei Bherat rises near Narainpur in the Kurangal *pargana* of Antagarh, the north-western tahsil, and flows due west past Sonpur and through the Nurbhum Maria *pargana*; then turning south-west through the Tapalibhum (Chhotemar) and Behramar (Baremar) Maria *parganas* of Antagarh, it crosses the south-east corner of the Ahiri zamindari in Chanda district to join the Indrawati and the Kotri or Paralkot river in a trijunction of unforgettable beauty 'beneath the fortified rock of Bhamragarh, in a wild expanse of hill and forest unbroken by a single clearing'.[2] Besides the Maria *parganas* of Antagarh already mentioned, it drains the Hukkagotal and Jatawada and parts of the Bardal and Farsal Maria *parganas* of Antagarh, and the portion of the Abujhmar mountains that extends beyond Bastar

●[103]

[1] Wrongly marked 'Nibra' on the old Topographical Survey maps of the sixties, slightly revised modern editions of which are still the only maps available of most of Bastar. 'Nei Bherat' means in the Maria dialect 'Dog River', so called after the numbers of otters in the river.

The names on these old maps are often wrong, and represent the efforts of Telugu or Bengali surveyors to reproduce the difficult guttural and other sounds of Maria. The maps are full of other inaccuracies, and seem often to have been drawn from the imagination of surveyors afraid of fever, tigers and aboriginal magic.

[2] Lucie-Smith's 1869 Chanda Settlement Report, para. 56. He calls the Nibra River by the name 'Pamla Ghootum'.

1: Grigson G-5 (1927-1934) 1949
AW32 Gond AW32
Hill Maria
Bison Horn Maria

101 'Seroncha Talook and Bhopalputnum, Veejapore, Chintulnar, Dunteewara, Kootroo and Barsoor Talooks of Bustar'; and for Márias 'Kootroo, Chintulnar, Dunteewara and Veejapore Talooks of Bustar, and also that part of Bustar called Ulrugmad[1]'. He notes that the Gotta language is nearly allied to the Maria. He uses Telugu versions of Bastar place names, just as the Survey of India did in the old topographical survey maps; by Savery, Peejee, Potukul, Kotapilly, Veejapore and Soonkoom he meant Kolab-Sabari, Bhiji, Phutkel, Pamer-Kotapalli, Bijapur and Sukma. Bhiji is the old name of the south-eastern part of Konta tahsil; Phutkel is a former zamindari in the Talper riverain tract of Bijapur tahsil, while Chintulnar is now in Konta tahsil, occupying the tract at the foot of the Aranpur pass. Except, therefore, for his inclusion of Sukma in the region of the Koyas, his distribution of the 'Koys, Gottawars and Marias' corresponds very closely with the areas shown in the ethnographic map for Dorlas, mixed Maria-Dorla, and Marias; in his Report on the Dependency of Bastar he had stated that Marias constituted 90 per cent. of the population of Sukma.

103

114 Various articles were published between 1876 and 1881 on the Koyas, whom he rightly calls Kois, by the Rev. John Cain, for many years a C.M.S. missionary at Dummagudem on the Godavari in the Bhadrachalam taluq of the East Godavari Agency, and only a few miles from the south-western corner of the Konta tahsil. These articles were the basis of the article on the Koyas in Thurston's *Tribes and Castes of Southern India*[2]. He wrote in the first of these:—

> 'I propose to notice first the Kois, a tribe already partially described in Captain Glasfurd's reports and Colonel Haig's report of his visit to Jagdalpur, and also in the Census Report for 1871 of the Madras Presidency. These people are to be found in the country extending from the banks of the Indravati, Bastar, down to the neighbourhood of Kammammet in the Nizam's country. All those in the plains have a tradition that about 200 years ago they were driven down from the plateau in the Bastar country by famine and disputes, and this relationship is also acknowledged by the Gutta Kois, i.e. the hill Kois who live in the highlands of Bastar. Up to the present (1876) time I have had but little intercourse with the Gutta Kois, and the manners and customs described in this paper will be those of the Kois dwelling in the Bhadrachallam taluka.'

Elsewhere he writes that the Gutta Koi of the Bastar plateau 'look down with some degree of contempt on the lowland Koi', who are

[1] An obvious misprint for 'Ubujmard', Glasfurd's spelling of Abujhmar.

[2] Cain's articles are:—'The Bhadrachallam Taluka, Godavari District, S. India', *Indian Antiquary*, Vol. V, 1876, p. 357 et seq.; 'The Bhadrachallam and Rekapalli Taluqas', *ibidem*, Vol. VIII, 1879, p. 33 et seq., and p. 219 et seq.; Vol. X, 1881, p. 221 et seq.; 'The Koi, a Southern Tribe of the Gond', *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society, Bengal*, Vol. XIII, 1881, p. 410 et seq. There were others in certain missionary journals, which I could not trace.